

Sullivan Broadband Local Development Corporation

SullivanBroadbandLDC@sullivanny.us

(845) 807-0930

Michael Brooks, Chairman
Richard Baum, Vice Chairman
Lorne Green, Treasurer/Secretary

Robert Dufour, Member
Jessica Dymond, Member
Jonathan Schiller, Member
Steve Melendez, Member

Sullivan Broadband Local Development Corporation Meeting

March 1, 2021 4:45pm

Present: Michael Brooks, Richard Baum, Jonathan Schiller, Jessica Dymond, Robert Dufour, Lorne Green, Steve Melendez

Absent: None

The meeting of the Sullivan Broadband Local Development Corporation was called to order by Director Michael Brooks as Chairman at 4:45pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion

Director Brooks introduced Steve Melendez, the newest member of the SBLDC. Director Melendez expressed his enthusiasm for being appointed to the board. Ms. Brown informed the Board that the LDC's certificate of incorporation was approved in January, however we still do not have our Employer Identification Number (EIN), which limits our ability to secure a bank account and D&O Liability Insurance. She also provided an update on the status of the various grants that the County is administering or applying for, including EDA, NBRC, and DASNY. A response to EDA's request for additional information is forthcoming. There was a discussion about an FCC report that indicates only 3.7% of Sullivan County residents lack access to high speed internet. Director Green explained the methodology behind the FCC report and the built in flaws that lead to inaccurate or misleading data. The FCC has recognized these deficiencies and is working to update its reports with an improved methodology. Director Baum looked at the FCC website and stated it showed Sullivan County is 99% covered and that is not reflective of what we know is the reality of our community. It also shows that 95% of people in the United States has access through 3 or more providers. Director Dymond thanked Director Green for the information and explanation about the FCC statistics as she has seen those numbers and has a hard time understanding and explaining them, so she appreciated the additional information.

Director Green provided a technical update on the project, which has been limited due to the weather in February. Fiber installation was finalized last week. We should still be on schedule to complete installation in March or early April. Director Brooks asked about the IP addressing and Director Green indicated that we are still working on that. Director Melendez offered to assist with identifying potential customers/subscribers for the testing phase of the Monticello tower project.

Director Brooks acknowledged the resignation of Brenda Parks who served as Secretary to the Board. Director Brooks addressed the vacancy in the Secretary position by suggesting that Director Green act in the capacity of both Treasurer and Secretary, given his availability to Ms. Brown for signatures. Ms.

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Brown does much of the “nuts and bolts” work and requires someone to sign off on documents. Director Schiller made a motion to appoint Director Green as Secretary, Director Dymond seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Director Brooks addressed an e-mail received from the Authorities Budget Office from the State. The ABO requires a snapshot budget given the SBLDC’s current source of revenue (\$100,000 in support from the County) and small expenses including service to Monticello tower and Ms. Brown’s stipend. Director Schiller asked if we fall under the technical jurisdiction of the ABO and it was confirmed that the LDC is subject to ABO reporting requirements. Director Green will work with Ms. Brown to compile a budget and send it to the ABO.

Director Brooks addressed the Request for Proposals for Management and Marketing Services. Weather delayed the delivery of at least one response due to the snow/ice storm in the Midwest. The deadline was extended to this Friday at 1:00pm. Once the responses are in hand they will be distributed to board members for review. Board members should have at least one week to review the documents, and Director Brooks suggested Monday March 15 2021 for the next meeting date to discuss the RFP responses. Director Green will arrange to have the vendors present to discuss their proposals via Zoom. The Board unanimously agreed to the date of March 15.

Director Brooks acknowledged Director Dufours’ recent success with the bus converted to a mobile remote learning space and the positive publicity that the project has received. Director Brooks also discussed recent discussions with Assemblywoman Gunther and the possibility of securing funding for equipment to be mounted on property of public libraries through Ramapo Catskill Library System.

Director Brooks asked for comment from Board members. Director Dymond asked if we had reached out to Elaine from RCL to attend one of our meetings. It would be more beneficial to have Elaine attend after the RFP is settled. Director Green asked Director Dymond about the third library location being targeted for equipment. The three locations listed were Callicoon, Livingston Manor and Roscoe. The libraries will need some assistance in explaining the project to their board members when the time comes. Director Dymond stated that NYS Department of Education is doing a digital equity panel and asked RCL to participate in that panel discussion. Director Dymond will be sitting on the panel on behalf of RCLS to discuss need and resources. Director Schiller thanked Director Green for taking on the role of Secretary in addition to his other roles. Director Brooks stated that it is exciting to have a board composed of individuals with such diverse background of experience. Director Melendez expressed a desire to assist in identifying potential end users and his enthusiasm for the broadband initiative.

Motion to adjourn was made by Director Dufour, seconded by Director Dymond, and the motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:26pm.

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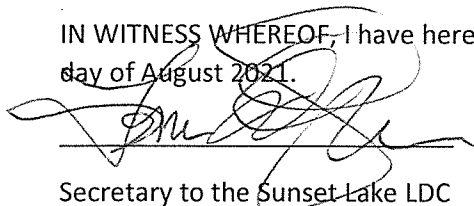
CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK) ss: COUNTY OF SULLIVAN)

I, Lorne Green, the undersigned, Secretary of the Sullivan Broadband Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation"), do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, including the policies contained therein, held on March 1, 2021, with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original and of such policies set forth therein and of the whole of said original so far as the same relates to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that (A) all members of the Board of Directors had due notice of said meeting; (B) said meeting was in all respects duly held; (C) pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (the "Open Meetings Law"), said meeting was open to the general public, and due notice of the time and place of said meeting was duly given in accordance with such Open Meetings Law; and (D) there was a quorum of the members of the Board of Directors present throughout said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Corporation this 23rd day of August 2021.



Secretary to the Sunset Lake LDC